

an internally threaded fastener disposed adjacent to the washer portion and retained rotatably within assembly with the stemmed washer by the retaining portion.

Sub 0.1 > 7. (Twice Amended) An internally threaded fastener assembly comprising:  
a threaded nut having a lower peripheral flange; and  
a base having a washer portion, a standoff portion extending from the washer portion, and a retaining skirt portion extending integrally from the washer portion and capturing the peripheral flange of the threaded nut to retain the threaded nut rotatably in assembly with the base, wherein the standoff portion is adapted to limit displacement of a threaded fastener securable to the threaded nut relative to the washer portion.

Sub 0.1 > 13. (Amended) An internally threaded fastener assembly comprising:  
an internally threaded fastener; and  
a base having a washer portion, a standoff portion adapted to extend from the washer portion such that the standoff portion extends substantially through material of a defined thickness to limit displacement of the externally threaded fastener relative to the washer portion, and a retaining skirt portion extending integrally from the washer portion and capturing the fastener rotatably in assembly with the base.

Sub 0.1 > 26. (Twice Amended) A fastener kit comprising:  
a stemmed washer having a washer portion, a standoff portion integral with the washer portion, and a retaining portion integral with the washer portion;  
an internally threaded fastener disposed adjacent to the washer portion and retained rotatably within assembly with the stemmed washer by the retaining portion; and  
an externally threaded fastener which mates with the internally threaded fastener, wherein the standoff portion is adapted to limit relative displacement of the externally threaded fastener and the washer portion of the stemmed washer to minimize compression of a material disposed therebetween.

27. (Twice Amended) A fastened joint comprising:

a stemmed washer having a washer portion, a standoff portion integral with the washer portion, and a retaining portion integral with the washer portion;

an internally threaded fastener disposed adjacent to the washer portion and retained rotatably within assembly with the stemmed washer by the retaining portion;

an externally threaded fastener which mates with the internally threaded fastener, the externally threaded fastener including a head; and

a compressible substrate joined between the standoff portion and the head of the externally threaded fastener, wherein the standoff portion is adapted to limit compression of the substrate between the head of the externally threaded fastener and the washer portion of the stemmed washer.

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(.44.12)